I

URBAN DISTRICT OF LYMM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1970

Including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

'Mountlands'
12 The Mount,
Church Street,
ALTRINCHAM,
Cheshire.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the district for the year 1970.

The statistics will show that a steady pattern has been continued and there has not been any unusual occurrances requiring special mention. It will be seen that the pattern is very much in keeping with the national figures as provided by the Registrar General.

The demand for housing continues and this results in the steady improvement of the existing housing stock which all tends to keep Lymm a pleasant dormitory town that it has been through the years.

The section of the Report referring to matters within the department of a non-medical character has been completed by the Public Health Inspector and I thank the staff for their co-operation in this connection.

Thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Slum Clearance Committee and other Members of the Council for the continued interest they show in the general welfare of the District.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

1 9 7 0

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. R.E. Gregory, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. J.E. Marsh

Mr. W.L. Boon (Chairman of the Health & Slum Clearance Committee)

Mr. O. Davies

Mr. W.R. Jones

Mr. W.B. Keates

Mr. D.E. Moon

Mr. R.H. Mundy

Mr. J.C. Ritchie

Dr. H. Sissons

Mr. J. Thomason, C.C., J.P.,

Mr. B.J. Thornton (Vice-Chairman of the Health & Slum Clearance Committee)

Staff of the Public Health Department

Dr. W. Davidson-Lamb, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. M.C., Medical Officer of Health

Mr. R.T. Sucksmith, M.P.H.I.A., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Public Health Inspector

Mrs. I. Sidley, Clerk/Typist

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	4,242 acres
Height above sea level - 40 ft. (Statham)	
195 ft. (Jolly Thresher, Higher Lane)	
80 ft. (Lymm Village)	
Population (Registrar General estimate Mid. 1969	10,500
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,521
Average number of persons per dwelling	2·98
Rateable Value of the District	£331,978
Product of the penny rate	£1,368
General Rate	14/6d. in the £

VITAL STATISTICS

Births		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	- Legitimate	123	91	214
	- Illegitimate	3	4	7
Total	-	126	95	221

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) 23·0
(corrected) 22·1

BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES 16·0

Birth Rates	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966	1968	1969	1970
LYMM	13.2	13.7	17.6	17.4	19.4	21.79	18.9	22.1
ENGLAND & WALES	23.1	16.3.	19.4	16.0	17.7	16.9	16.3	16.0

At the beginning of the century Lymm had a high birth rate which dropped to quite a low level in the twenties and thirties and then rose steadily. The rise and fall of the birth rate shows a similar trend to the rates for England and Wales, but with the influx of younger couples to the area in the last few years, the birth rate has been slightly above the national rate.

Stillbirths	Male	Female	Total
	3	2	5

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 22

Stillbirth rate for ENGLAND AND WALES 13

Deaths of Infants	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 week	1	-	1
" 4 weeks	1	-	1
" 1 year	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 5

Infant Mortality Rate for ENGLAND AND WALES 17

Infant Mortality Rates

	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966	1968	1969	1970
LYMM	82	36	44.4	8.5	19.9	26.64	-	5
ENGLAND & WALES	70	59	43	26.9	19.0	18	18	17

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All causes	55	41	96

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) 10.0
(corrected) 11.6

Death Rate for ENGLAND AND WALES 11.7

Death Rates	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966	1968	1969	1970
LYMM	10.5	10.7	11.7	11.7	11.93	13.22	12.4	11.6
ENGLAND & WALES	11.6	12.1	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATHS BY SEX AND AGE

Cause	Sex	Total	Under 4 wks	4 wks to 1	1 +	5 +	15 +	25 +	35 +	45 +	55 +	65 +	75 +
Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity etc.	M	1								1			
- Stomach	M	1										1	
- Intestine	M	2									1		1
	F	2											2
- Lung & Bronchus	M	9								2	2	5	
	F	3									1	1	1
- Prostate	M	1										1	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	4						1			1		2
	F	4									1	2	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1											1
Anaemias	M	1										1	
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	1											1
	F	1											1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1						1					
Hypertensive Disease	M	3										3	
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	14									3	8	3
	F	4									2		2
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	1											1
	F	5									2		3
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	2									1		1
	F	10								1	1	2	6
Other diseases of Circulatory System	F	3									1	1	1
Pneumonia	M	2							1			1	
	F	3									1	1	1
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	3								1		1	1
	F	1											1
Asthma	M	1									1		
Other diseases of Respiratory System	F	1									1		
Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	M	1											1
Total carried forward	M	49	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	9	21	12
	F	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	7	19

Cause	Sex	Total	Under 4 Wks	4 wks to 1	1 +	5 +	15 +	25 +	35 +	45 +	55 +	65 +	75 +
Totals brought forward	M	49	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	4	9	21	12
	F	37	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	7	19
Other diseases of Digestive System	M	1								1			
	F	1										1	
Nephritis & Nephrosis	M	–											
	F	1											1
Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	1										1	
Other causes of perinatal Mortality	M	1	1										
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1								1			
All other accidents	M	1							1				
	F	2											2
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	M	1									1		
Total all causes	M	55	1	–	–	–	–	2	2	6	10	22	12
	F	41	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	8	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	187
Hepatitis	1
Tuberculosis	1
Scarlatina	1
Erysiplas	1
Meningoccal Meningitis	1

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

General Hospital accommodation is provided in Altrincham and Warrington General Hospitals while a few cases of a special nature are admitted to hospitals in Manchester.

Infectious Diseases are usually accommodation in the Warrington Infectious Diseases Hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Withington Hospital, Manchester, and specimens are collected daily from Altrincham or sent by post in suitable containers.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
LYMM.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report including all statistics from the 1st January, 1970 to 31st December, 1970.

Lymm by reason of its situation continues to be a desirable area in which to live for people working in the nearby towns and in consequence houses are in great demand. Cottages which were once available for letting are consistently being sold into owner/occupation with usually considerable improvement in the property ensuing. These improvements frequently attracting grant aid and the whole process is bringing about a steady improvement of the housing stock in the district.

Despite the steady increase in population there has not been an unusual increase in the environmental work of the department, apart from the problem of disposal of sewage sludge which continues to be a problem for the Surveyor and his staff.

May I thank the Committee and the Chairman in particular for their assistance during the year and in particular, Mrs. I. Sidley my Clerk/Typist, for the efficient services she continues to give to the Department, and Mr. J. Goulden, the Rodent Operative for the very efficient manner in which he deals with all reports of infestation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

R. T. SUCKSMITH,

Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the district is under the control of the Warrington, Runcorn and District Water Board.

The supply is adequate and the results of frequent samples are supplied to the department.

The results of samples taken are as under:-

Total number of bacteriological samples	10
Samples free from Coliform bacteria	10
Samples free from faecal coli	10

The following is the latest chemical analysis of the water:-

Appearance	clear
Odour	nil
Reaction, pH	7.5
Colour (hazen units)	less than 5 parts per million
Total solids	408
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.0
Chlorides, as Cl	77
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.2
Total hardness	219
Temporary hardness	176
Permanent hardness	43
Alkalinity	176
Free Chlorine	nil (total residual)
Potassium, as K	3.2
Anionic synthetic detergents	-
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.025
Poisonous metals	nil
Free carbon dioxide	12
Calcium, as Ca	46
Magnesium, as Mg	25
Chloride, as Cl	77

Sulphate, as SO_4	55.2
Nitrate, as NO_3	8.8
Carbonate, as CO_3	105.6
Sodium, as Na	75
Silica	1.0
Iron, as Fe	0.01

The following probable mode of combination is based upon the analysis:-

	- parts per million -
Calcium carbonate	115.0
Magnesium carbonate	51.2
Magnesium sulphate	52.0
Sodium sulphate	5.6
Sodium chloride	127.0
Sodium nitrate	12.0
Silica	1.0
Mineral solids (calculated)	363.8

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Upon examination the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered by the shopkeepers.

Cooked Meat	6	lbs.
Raw Meat	38	"
Raw Fish	57	"
Tomatoes	15	tins
Fruit	150	"
Soup	1	"
Vegetables	197	"
Tinned Meats	13	"
Tinned Fish	7	"
Milk and Cream	19	"
Jams	1	jar
Pie Filling	3	tins

The Cheshire County Council are the food authority for this area and I am indebted to Mr. W.K. Nattrass, Chief Inspector, of the Weights and Measures Department, for the following details of samples taken during the year.

Nature of Sample	Number Obtained	Number of Non-Standard Samples
Beef Pie - Savoury	1	
Beetroot - Sliced	1	1
Butter - Peanut	1	
Cheese Spread & Mushroom	1	
Cochineal - Artificial	1	
Curry Powder	1	
Chocolate Spread	1	
Flour - Plain	1	
Milk	19	
Pickles - Clear Mixed	1	
Salmon Spread	1	
Soy Sauce	1	
	30	1

The particulars of the sample not up to standard are :-

Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
Sliced Beetroot	Presence of vinegar not disclosed	Manufacturer cautioned

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses operating within the area. All the butchers getting their meat from outside slaughterhouses.

MILK SUPPLY

There are no dairies in the area licensed by the County Council as pasteurisers.

There are within the area 15 distributors retailing Sterilised Milk; 7 retailing Pasteurised Milk; 10 retailing Ultra Heat Treated Milk and 1 retailing Untreated Milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

21 samples of milk were taken for examination by the Cheshire County Council, the details of results of the tests carried out were as follows:-

	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatese Test		
	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Total
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	1	-	-	-	1
T.T. Milk	4	-	-	-	4
Pasteurised Milk	12	-	1	-	13
Sterilised Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	17	-	1	-	18

	Tuberculosis		Turbidity Test		
	Nega-tive	Posi-tive	Pass	Fail	Total
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised Milk	-	-	3	-	3
Totals	-	-	3	-	3

MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

There is only one dairy herd in the district from which raw milk is sold to the public and during the year the County Council took samples relative to the above as shown in the table below :-

	Total Submitted	Number Brucella Positive
Bulk Samples	7	-
Dealer Samples (Herd Samples)	6	1
Individual Cow Samples	28	1
Totals	41	2

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of the various food premises in the district :-

Grocers & General Provision Dealers	26
Butchers	8
Greengrocers and/or Fishmongers	5
Bakehouses	1
Cafes and Restaurants	5
Licensed Premises	15
Confectioners	2

ICE-CREAM

There are 29 premises in the area now registered for the sale of ice-cream. In all cases the ice-cream is pre-packed and sold under satisfactory conditions.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is carried out by the staff of the Surveyor's Department. Difficulties are experienced from time to time in meeting the public demand, but generally speaking this service is satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The disposal of refuse is done by tipping in the Statham area on land which was originally the irrigation sewage works. The Rodent Operative, Mr. J. Goulden generally keeps the tip under supervision and regular treatment for rodent infestation and control of flies is carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of pail closets continues to decrease and there are now only three. It is hoped that in the near future these will also be converted and the collection service can then be dispensed with.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The maintenance and cleansing of the Public Conveniences is carried out by the staff of the Surveyor's Department. Unfortunately defacement and vandalism still continues to take place.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The modern Sewage Works under the management of Mr. B. Parsonage and the general supervision of the Surveyor, continues to work satisfactorily, but under pressure due to the expansion of the area.

This results in a problem of how to dispose of the sludge which is now being produced in quantities in excess of the facilities initially provided for this purpose.

CLEAN AIR

Lymm has no factories and what light industry there is in the area does not present any smoke problem. The majority of owner/occupied houses are already central heated or heated by gas fires so that the level of pollution is lower than surrounding areas.

IMPROVEMENT TO DWELLINGS

During the year there were 8 applications received for discretionary grants, and 12 applications for standard grants.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Four Preliminary Notices and Three Statutory Notices were served following complaints received from housholders and this resulted in improvements as follows :-

Burst pipes	1
Defective woodwork	3
Brickwork	1
Fireplace	1
Roof	2
Gutters	2
Accummulation of Rubbish	2

RODENT CONTROL

For this service I have the assistance of a part-time rodent operative, Mr. J. Goulden. During the year treatment has been carried out at the undermentioned properties :-

Rats	Private dwellings	71
	Business Premises	11
Mice	Private dwellings	10
	Business premises	5
Lymm U.D.C. Premises ...	... ...	3
Schools	... ...	4

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a list of the premises registered under this Act by the end of the year.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year
Offices	-	15
Retail Shops	-	47
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	17
Fuel storage depots	-	-

Number of people employed in the registered premises are as follows:-

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed Male and Female
Offices	82
Retail Shops	187
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	12
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	135
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	416

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the year 21 inspections of factories and workplaces were made, as follows :-

Premises		No. on Register	Inspec -tions	Written Notices	Occup-iers Prose-cuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	3	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	18	-	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	2	-	-	-
Totals		40	21	-	-

There were no defects discovered at the time of the visits.

CARAVANS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the Urban Area.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There are 15 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit under the above legislation by the Council following my recommendations.

In this respect I would like to mention the ready co-operation of the Cheshire County Fire Brigade who on my request carry out inspections of all premises. A service which I find invaluable.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Drainage	21
Factories	3
Workplaces/Offices etc.	18
Licensed premises	22
Schools	9
Refuse collection	3
Rats and Mice	102
Shops	13
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	69
Visits for purposes of Building Inspection	142
Visits to Council Properties	1461
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	25
Visits paid to above houses	27
Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	38
Visits paid to above houses	41
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	21
Filthy or Verminous Premises - Visits Paid	1
" " " Houses Inspected	1
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	13
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits ...	4
Butchers	3
Visits to Shops for Meat Inspection... ...	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors	1
Grocers	11
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Canteens	8
Restaurants	3
Ice-cream Premises	1